

ONLY THE BROKEN

Week 10 | Only The Broken | September 27, 2015

Focus: Freedom or Slavery

Opening Up:

- You get to be a king for one day. You can pass a new law for the world. What new law would you create?
- You get to be a priest for one day. You can mobilize the world to care for others' needs in any way you wish. What act of grace would you lead the world in?
- You get to be a prophet for one day. You can speak a message to the world. What message would you speak to the world?

Reference: Galatians 5:1-15

Discuss:

1. John Stott said the following.
 - “Christianity will not allow us to sit on the fence or live in a haze; it urges us to be definite and decisive, and in particular to choose between Christ and circumcision. ‘Circumcision’ stands for a religion of human achievement, of what man can do by his own good works; ‘Christ’ stands for a religion of divine achievement, of what God has done through the finished work of Christ. ‘Circumcision’ means law, works and bondage; ‘Christ’ means grace, faith and freedom. Every man must choose. The one impossibility is what the Galatians were attempting, namely to add circumcision to Christ and have both. No. ‘Circumcision’ and ‘Christ’ are mutually exclusive.”
 - How does this help you to understand the gospel?
2. Explain the following statement in your own words. “Every time you add something to Jesus, you subtract Jesus from the grace equation.” Why is adding a “+” to Jesus a major problem?
3. How does what Paul says in 5:12 illustrate how seriously Paul takes free grace? Do you think Paul’s words are gracious? Why is what Paul is saying necessary to say? Can you speak a truth that cuts to heal and be gracious at the same time? How so?
4. If someone were to say, “Explain to me the freedom that Jesus has given you,” what would you say?
5. Imagine the following question was asked of you. “If grace is free, what reason do you have to be good or ambitious?” How would you answer this question?
6. How does grace free you from being self-focused? How is being self-focused a type of slavery?
7. In what ways do you sometimes define your significance based on your performance? How does the gospel speak to that?
8. Why does grace not give us a license to sin?
9. When faith is worked out, it produces love. How does this happen?
10. Why is working faith and loving your neighbor not another form of law keeping? How is being good under grace different from being good under the law?
11. When God’s free grace is embraced in faith, there is love, but when grace is not free, it produces a community that “bites and devours itself.” Have you ever witnessed a faith community that loves or a community that bites? What was that like?
12. Pray.

